

Staff Report



Chief Administrator's Office

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REPORT TO: Special Council

DATE OF MEETING: March 17, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Dan Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer

PREPARED BY: Justin Watkins, Manager of Corporate Planning

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All

DATE OF REPORT: March 4, 2025

REPORT NO.: CAO-2025-135

SUBJECT: City of Kitchener Response to U.S. Tariffs and Trade

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to inform council of a staff presentation it will receive on March 17, in support of its February 10 resolution on tariffs and trade relations with the United States.
- There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- Community engagement included posting this report to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the committee meeting.
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

BACKGROUND:

Given recent economic uncertainties between the United States of America and Canada, on February 10 council unanimously approved a resolution directing staff to minimize tariff impacts on City of Kitchener operations and to implement actions in support of our local economy. Based on the urgency of council's resolution, a **City of Kitchener Tariff and Trade Task Force** was constituted to facilitate key deliverables in a timely and effective manner.

REPORT:

On March 4, U.S. President Trump proceeded with his decision to implement a 25 percent economy-wide tariff on products imported from Canada. Council's resolution directed staff to report back with an update on the actions of its resolution, should tariffs come into effect, at the earliest possible meeting of council.

During the Special Council meeting on March 17, a staff presentation will be provided to council on work undertaken to-date by the Tariff and Trade Task Force, in support of council's February 10 resolution.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports the delivery of core services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

Notice of Motion - United States of America - Proposed Tariffs - Mayor B. Vrbanovic (Monday, February 10, 2025)

APPROVED BY: Dan Chapman, CAO

ATTACHMENTS: Council Resolution - United States of America - Proposed Tariffs (Monday, February 10, 2025)